THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI *S.* B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Total number of coal mines operating in public sector during 1990-91 was 510.

(b) The toal investment in all the coal mines of Coal Inda Limited (CIL) under the administrati ve control of the Ministry of Coal and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) under the administrative control of Government of Andhra Pradesh at the end of December, 1991 was Rs. 9986.40 crores (provisional) and Rs. 1143.35 crores (provisional) as against Rs. 9193.50 crores and Rs. 1029.35 crores as on 31-3-1991 respectively.

(c) CIL's outstanding loan as on 31-3-1991 was Rs. 5923.33 crores and I that of SCCL was Rs. 801.66 crores. The actual interest paid by CIL during 1990-91 was Rs. 313.64 crores and by SCCL was nil.

(d) During the year 1990-91, CIL and SCCL suffered a loss of Rs. 253.17 crores and Rs. 163.19 crores respectively. Profit or loss figure for 1991-92 can be worked out only after the close of the financial year.

Abolition of Freight Equalisation of Coal

462. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

SHRI CHATURNAN MISHRA

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to do away with friegbt equalisation of coal ;

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) At present there is no scheme of Freight Equalisation in force in regard tocoal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in the Price of Coal

463. DR. N. THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently increased the price of coal of various grades, if so, what is percentage of such a rise and reasons therefor ;

(b) the extent of resource mobilisation through the increase ;

(c) the prices of coal increased since nationalisation;

(d) the details of impact on the major coal consumers such as power plants etc ; and

(e) the steps taken to increase roductivity and minimise cost of production of coal in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Yes, Sir ; the increase in average price in respect of Coal India Limited (CIL) Goal is 29.3% and that of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Coal is 30.6%. The reason for increase is increase in wages and cost of other inputs.

(b) The estimated mobilisation of resources through the increase of price w.e.f. 28-12-1991 is Rs. 480 crores for CIL and Rs. 52.91 crores for SCCL for the remaining period of the year 1991-92.